



Missouri State Recycling Program

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December 2018

MSRP 2018 Recycling Champions Awards

Each year, the Missouri State Recycling Program (MSRP) accepts nominations for the Annual Recycling Award. State employees, departments, or agencies are eligible to be nominated for outstanding contributions made in the areas of recycling collection, waste reduction, or recycled content procurement. Members of the Missouri Interagency Recycling Committee (MIRC) review the nominations and vote.

Team Award

MSRP congratulates the Howerton Green Team with the Department of Social Services on its selection for the 2018 team recycling award. The Howerton Green Team was formed in 2007 to maintain ongoing communication with employees, management, and the custodial contractor. The efforts of the Green Team resulted in the recycling of nearly 500 pounds of materials each week.

The Green Team regularly educates employees at the Howerton Building about recycling procedures and mentors new members who want to



(L-R) Ski Collins, John Mier, Carolyn Twardowski, Greg Campbell, Barbara Kliethermes, Jennifer Parker

join the Green Team. They have active email communications, regularly thank employees for recycling efforts, and post signs clearly explaining what items can be recycled where. Over the past 11 years, the Howerton Green Team's efforts to grow recycling programs have created a very strong recycling culture at the Howerton Building.

Individual Award



(L-R) Jackson Bostic, Kevin Vanover, Carol Comer

Kevin Vanover with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) was selected for this year's individual award. Kevin diligently makes sure all cardboard, paper, shredding, and other recyclable items are saved, and independently made arrangements with Current River Workshop to pick up the items at no cost to DNR.

He also tracks and reports the amount of recycling. In 2018, between January and June, he recycled nearly a thousand pounds of material.

We applaud Kevin's initiative to provide recycling options to reduce waste at the Missouri Department of Natural Resources!

Upcycling in the Spotlight



These stylish, comfortable, and most importantly, sustainable shoes, are made from recycled plastic water bottles by Rothys.

Missouri State Recycling Program



Mission Statement

The Missouri State Recycling Program partners with state employees and agencies to facilitate fiscally and environmentally responsible strategies for reuse and recycling of state property.

Recycling Rules

Can I recycle plastic bags?

Plastic bags are very simple to recycle, because the rules are the same everywhere! Plastic bags fall into the broader category of “plastic film”, which also include zip-top bags, dry cleaning bags, plastic wrap on water bottles, etc.

Plastic bags should **never** be placed in a single-stream recycling container, even if the bag contains other recyclable materials. Plastic bags cause BIG problems at the material recovery facilities where recyclable material is separated. Plastic bags should **always** be recycled by themselves.

So where can plastic bags be recycled? Most grocery and retail stores have plastic bag collection containers located in the entryway of the store.

America Recycles Day 2018

Each year, November 15 is recognized as America Recycles Day (ARD) - a national initiative of Keep America Beautiful. ARD reminds us that we can each do our part to reduce, reuse, recycle and buy recycled products. During the month of November, MSRP displayed materials about recycling and the program on the 2nd floor of the Truman Building.

On November 15, MSRP was set up at the 4th floor entrance of the Truman Building. Many state employees stopped by to take the recycling pledge and receive a pen made from plastic bottles. Those taking the pledge were also entered in a drawing for an MSRP t-shirt made from plastic bottles. Congratulations to Tom Palmer with Unclaimed Property from the Treasurer's Office for winning the drawing!



Rob Didriksen, State Recycling Coordinator



Meet Your MIRC Members!

The Missouri Interagency Recycling Committee (MIRC) is composed of representatives from each of the state departments, and meets quarterly to discuss issues dealing with recycling collection, waste reduction, recycling market conditions, and recycled product procurement. MIRC functions as the liaison between the Missouri State Recycling Program and all other state of Missouri government agencies.

December's featured MIRC member is Karen Wood, a 24-year veteran of the Missouri Department of Agriculture. She works in the George Washington Carver Building, where paper, cardboard, cans, bottles, and fuel are recycled. In 2018, Karen assisted in coordinating recycling at the State Fair, making sure recycling containers were placed around the fairgrounds.

Karen was instrumental in discovering that the Missouri Department of Agriculture recycled fuel samples, but that those samples hadn't been properly reported to the MSRP to include in year-end recycling numbers. Her diligence resulted in reporting more than 2,000 gallons of gasoline recycled in fiscal year (FY) 2017.

Outside of her dedicated recycling efforts at work, Karen resides in California, Mo., with her husband Jason, and is a proud mother of three. Her oldest son Devan (25), a member of the US Air Force stationed in Montana, and his wife Heather recently welcomed baby Carson into their lives. Other children include her younger son, Dillion (12), and daughter Jordan (11). She has a Bachelor of Science in Business Education and is working towards a Master's in Business Administration in her free time. Karen is also her daughter's Girl Scout Troop Leader.

Reduce, Reuse, Repurpose!

Recently some OA-ITSD employees (Andrew Zweifel, Bonnie Estes, and Alan Spears) took the initiative to separate out packing materials that could be reused and set them aside to give to Missouri Vocational Enterprises (MVE) to use when they ship out fragile items. Great job!

Submit a photo of an item being reused or repurposed to be featured in the next issue!



Please send any submissions to recycling@oa.mo.gov. We'd love to see photos of you recycling at work, objects made from recycled products, or anything else recycling-related that you'd like to share!